



## 2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

### Program Focus:

The focus of the Oklahoma WRP is to restore and enhance the hydrology and native vegetation on eligible land. The use of dikes, water control structures and microtopography enhancement (ridge/swale) features are utilized in conjunction with tree plantings, range seeding, and critical area plantings to restore former wetlands and provide habitats for migrating birds and local wildlife species that are dependent on wetland habitat.

The Oklahoma NRCS has entered into a Cooperative agreement with Ducks Unlimited to assist with the surveying and contracting of wetland restoration and enhancement.



### Oklahoma Summary

#### Overview:

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

The Oklahoma WRP currently encompasses 32 counties. The variety of wetland restoration goes from bottomland range sites of the Central Rolling Red Plains in the west, an area that averages 27 inches of precipitation annually, to the bottomland hardwoods of the Southern Coastal Plain that average 50 inches of rainfall annually. The WRP easements range in size from 7 acres to 7,800 acres, with an average size of 310 acres. The average cost for easement acquisition and restoration is currently \$607 dollars per acre. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Ducks Unlimited meet with the NRCS on a monthly basis to provide a team approach to wetland restoration.

#### Accomplishments:

The Red Slough easement in McCurtain County has been partially purchased by the U.S. Forest Service and is being managed for public use by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. This project has produced 257 documented species of birds in the last two years. Some of the birds that have been sighted in the Red Slough are considered first time sightings in Oklahoma. A few of the unusual sightings for Oklahoma include the black-bellied whistling duck, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, willow flycatcher, purple gallinule, white ibis, and the yellow rail. The successional stages of wetland development that are present on this project are due to the planned water manipulation, soil disturbance, and the presence of permanent and semi-permanent water that has occurred on this site since its entrance into the WRP. The diverse habitat that has been developed through the wetland restoration and enhancement efforts is providing the habitats required by a variety of wetland dependent species.

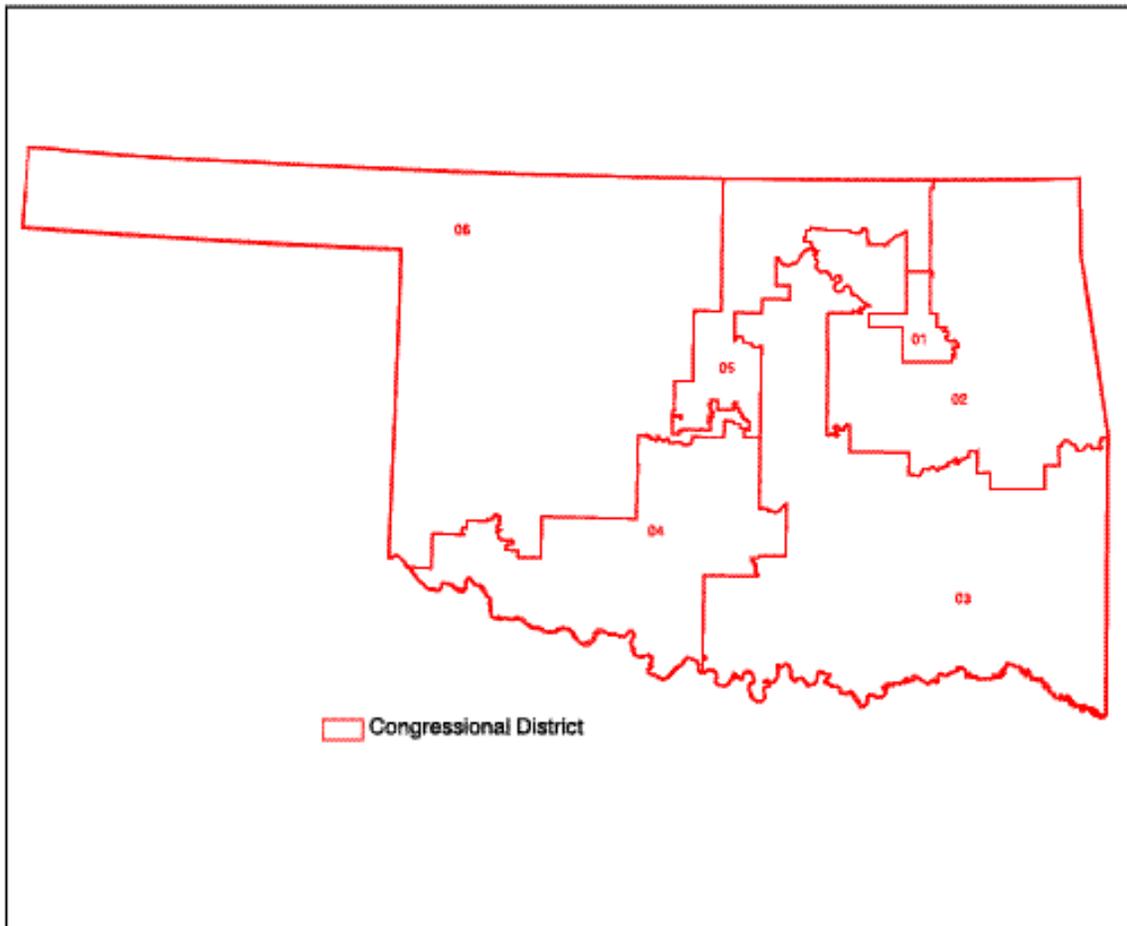
#### Program Benefits:

Oklahoma has 122 total WRP contracts, on 38,171.2 acres: 91 are permanent easements, 4 are 30-year agreements and 27 are 10-year restoration agreements. \$18,487,163 dollars have been used for easement acquisition, restoration and enhancement efforts. In 2001, restoration and enhancement were completed on 6,514 acres. An additional 1,200 acres that had hydrology restored prior to 2001 were enhanced with ridge/swale feature construction to provide micro-topography within the restoration units. 5,000 acres are scheduled for restoration and enhancement in 2002.

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## Oklahoma Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



### Oklahoma Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (96-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1				
District 2	\$358,044	5	\$1,664,817	24
District 3	\$626,543	5	\$12,695,786	58
District 4	\$351,500	3	\$2,402,896	20
District 5	\$17,745	1	\$658,818	9
District 6	\$732,450	4	\$1,064,846	11
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$2,086,282</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$18,487,163</b>	<b>122</b>

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